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*Division of Ratepayer Advocates
California Public Utilities Commission*

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Dana S. Appling, Director

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Honorable Debra Bowen
State Capitol, Room 4040
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1788 (Bowen) Support

Dear Senator Bowen:

The Division of Ratepayer Advocates supports your SB 1788, which would authorize the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to use any unencumbered California Teleconnect Funds from the 2003-04 and 2004-05 fiscal years to expend up to \$3 million for up to an additional 40% of the nonrecurring installation costs for high-speed broadband services for nonprofit community technology programs.

As you know, the California Teleconnect Fund (CTF) provides a discount on advanced telecommunications services to qualifying schools, libraries, government-owned health care providers and community based organizations. Eligible participants can also apply on a first come, first served basis for a one-time service installation discount.

Your bill would authorize the Commission to provide CTF participants that have received the aforementioned service installation discount the same discount when upgrading to a system for the digital transmission of information over the Internet at a speed of at least 384 kilo-bits per second.

The Division of Ratepayer Advocates supports your efforts and looks forward to working with you to pass this important legislation.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please call Matthew Marcus our Legislative Director at (916) 327-3455 or me at (415) 703-2544.

Sincerely,

Dana S. Appling, Director
Division of Ratepayer Advocates